Withdrawal of troops from the borders

†144. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw troops deployed on the borders back to their barracks;

(b) if so, the period for which the troops were deployed on the borders; and

(c) the additional amount Government had to spent for such deployment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government have decided to carry out strategic relocation of troops without compromising the capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering of vigil in Jammu and Kashmir. The process of strategic relocation of troops is underway and would be completed in a gradual manner.

(b) The Army was mobilized for Op PARAKRAM on 19th December, 2001 and Government's decision for strategic relocation was taken on 16th October, 2002.

(c) The expenditure can be assessed only after the redeployment is complete.

High altitudes training for armed forces

145. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give exposure on skiing training in the Swiss Alps and high altitudes, to men of armed forces, if so, details thereof and whether this is on reciprocal basis;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.